51. The process of claim 50, wherein said step of thermolyzing takes place at a temperature of from 150°C to 240°C.

52. A process for the preparation of an O-organocarbamate, said process comprising reacting an organic formamide or its amine and formate precursors with a diorganocarbonate at a temperature below that at which significant thermolysis of O-organocarbamate to isocyanate occurs, and separating said O-organocarbamate from other reaction products.

Remarks

Applicant wishes to draw the attention of the Examiner to U.S. Patent 5,166,414, cites in Applicant's recent Information Disclosure Statement, which discloses reaction of an aliphatic formamide with dimethylcarbonate in a sodium methoxide-catalyzed reaction to produce an O-methylcarbamate, which is separated, then thermolyzed in the presence of a high boiling solvent to produce aliphatic isocyanates. It is necessary, as shown by the comparative experiments, to isolate the O-alkylcarbamate free from catalyst for the thermolysis step, otherwise low yield and preparation of polymerized byproducts occurs.

The presently claimed processes generally employ a diarylcarbonate or mixed aliphatic/aryl carbonate, do not require a catalyst, and do not require catalyst-free separation of O-alkylcarbamate, or even that the O-organocarbamate be separated at all. Contrary to the '414 patent, the present process produces high yields when arylformamides are used, rather than the preferred aliphatic formamides of '414. Please note that claim 46 and dependant claims allow for use of organocarbonates other than aryl-group-containing carbonates. The term "aryl" is inclusive of aralkyl and alkaryl groups.

Early favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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